GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:438
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
REUSABLE LAUNCH VEHICLES
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation plans to build reusable launch vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and (

(c) the time by which work on the project is likely to start and likely amount of savings by re-use of launch vehicles?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) ISRO has been considering as a long-range goal, investigative studies on reusable launch vehicles.

(b) The studies include areas like air-breathing propulsion, re-entry and recovery of space modules and mission studies.

(c) The project can be finalised only after the investigative studies. The amount of possible savings can be estimated only after detailed studies in the next few years, taking into account the investment to realise the highly complex technical challenges involved.